



# The Washington Connection

Congresswoman **Candice Miller**

<http://candicemiller.house.gov>

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## Rep. Miller Announces Four Great Lakes Projects

**WRDA bill contains, must now be ratified by the House**

U.S. Representative Candice Miller, a member of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, announced that the Committee unanimously approved several projects of significance to the Great Lakes in the Water Resources Development Act bill. They are:

- \$10 million dollars for the St. Clair River/ Lake St. Clair Comprehensive Management plan, which will be administered by the Army Corps of Engineers and identify causes and sources of environmental degradation, address monitoring of biological and chemical contamination, and provide recommendations for restoration
- A 3-D model of the upper St. Clair River

under the Blue Water Bridge to be built by the Army Corps of Engineers. Model would be used to determine if Lake Michigan and Lake Huron are experiencing declining water levels because of dredging in the St. Clair River

- An electric barrier to keep Asian Carp out of the Great Lakes. The Army Corps of Engineers would implement the barrier at the Chicago Diversionary Canal as it meets Lake Michigan
- A study conducted by the Army Corps of Engineers on the feasibility of environmental restoration projects on the Clinton River

"This is the first major step in getting these pro-

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## Rep. Miller Appointed to Congressional Climate Change Panel

**Writes Op-Ed for Detroit Free Press outlining significance for Michigan's economy**

**Big stakes on climate for Detroit**

**Detroit Free Press**

**March 26, 2007**

**BY U.S. REP. CANDICE MILLER**

The U.S. House recently established a Select Committee on Global Climate Change to propose policy recommendations. I vigorously

sought a seat on the committee because one of its prime targets will be the already struggling domestic auto industry. I believe that absent an advocate and voice of reason on behalf of the industry, potentially disastrous policies could be imposed.

Everyone in our great state wants to preserve our environment and do their part to tackle the problem of carbon emissions, which may be contributing to global climate change. The

recent poll in the Free Press clearly shows that the people of Michigan would support new environmental rules that affect the auto industry so long as they don't destroy our jobs. That is why it is so important that any potential solution must actually work to solve the problem while helping the industry move forward. The danger is the imposition of drastic efficiency standards that would divert precious research and development dol-

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## Four New Michigan Water Projects (Continued...)

(Continued from page 1)

jects enacted,” Rep. Miller said. “They still must be passed and approved by the full House and House appropriators, but I am very optimistic they too will ratify these projects.

“Throughout my nearly three decades of public service, protecting the Great Lakes has always been a principal advocacy of mine, and I’m pleased that my position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee has put me in a position to champion federal assistance for this national treasure.

“I worked hard to secure language in this bill to implement the St. Clair

River/Lake St. Clair Comprehensive Management Plan. This plan will go a long ways towards rehabilitating Lake St. Clair and its watershed to improve conditions for boaters, swimmers, and anglers alike.

“Also, the Asian Carp barrier will be a huge help in stemming the flow of this invasive species into our Lakes. They have the potential to have a devastating impact the delicate eco-system of our Lakes, and implementing this barrier is a major step towards eliminating the imminent threat this species presents.

“The Clinton River sits literally in my backyard, and is an economic channel into Macomb County as well as a

physical channel. I’m excited that the Army Corps of Engineers is going to look into restoring the River to the pristine state it deserves, and this would surely have both environmental, as well as economical benefits in the region.”

“Rep. Miller has been a long-time champion for the Great Lakes and Lake St. Clair, and the work she’s doing will be of great importance today and well into the future,” Doug Martz, Chairman of the Macomb County Water board said. “It’s about time Lake St. Clair and the Great Lakes got the attention they deserve, and we’re very happy that Congresswoman Miller is doing what she’s doing.”

## House Approves Bill to Improve Veterans Health Care

**Wounded Warriors Assistance Act will streamline bureaucracy, reform health system**

U.S. Representative Candice Miller, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, recently voted in favor of *The Wounded Warriors Assistance Act*, which will ensure America’s injured and wounded servicemembers receive the finest healthcare available through the military health system. The bill passed in the House unanimously.

to the freedom our nation bestows, and they all deserve every last measure of our support to ensure that when they are wounded they receive the best possible care,” Rep. Miller said. “We cannot ask those who have fought our foreign enemies in the defense of freedom to come home and fight the federal bureaucracy to get the health care they need.”

“The military medical corps has in large measure provided absolutely incredible care to those wounded in battle,” Rep. Miller continued. “But the recent discoveries at Walter Reed Army Medical Center were disturbing and unacceptable, and we cannot allow any more Building 18 incidents to occur and must do everything in our power to ensure that it does not.”

Specifically, H.R. 1538, the Wounded Warrior Assistance Act of 2007, provides the people, training and over-

sight mechanisms needed to ensure that our wounded warriors receive committed quality care and that the military health system will not fail them. The legislation also sets the stage for much needed reform of administrative processes that will restore confidence in the integrity and efficiency of the disability evaluation system.

Specifically, the bill will streamline the bureaucracy of the military medical system and lighten the case load of case managers by providing more assistance, providing a hotline for those receiving substandard care to report problems, providing for a smooth transition from the Department of Defense health care system to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and cutting more red tape so the focus can be on the patient and not the paperwork.

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**Rep. Miller inspects conditions at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. in light of reports of unacceptable health care at the hospital.**

# Macomb Daily Op-Ed: Only U.S. citizens should determine representation

*Miller reintroduces Constitutional Amendment to prevent Michigan from losing a seat in Congress*

**Macomb Daily**  
**April 1, 2007**

Michigan cannot afford to lose additional representation in Congress. U.S. Rep. Candice Miller knows that, and has reintroduced a resolution to prevent or slow further losses. The 14th Amendment requires that all people living in the United States be counted for the purposes of apportioning states' representatives to Congress. That includes illegal immigrants living in the country. Estimates of the number of illegal immigrants living in the United States range from 11 million to 30 million. Changing the long-standing practice so that illegal immigrants don't skew the count for the purposes of determining congressional representation would require a constitutional amendment, a proposal originally introduced last year by Miller, R-Harrison Township. Congress never addressed the proposal before its final session last year.

Miller reintroduced House Joint Resolution 6 on Wednesday, seeking an amendment to prevent the counting of illegal immigrants. The bill calls for an

amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow only American citizens to be counted when House seats are apportioned to the 50 states.

The constitutional amendment, if adopted by Congress and ratified by sufficient states, would require that only citizens of the U.S. be included in Census counts to determine how many representatives each state sends to Washington, D.C.

Michigan lost one congressional seat in 2000 because of population losses, and population growth — both of citizens and illegal immigrants — in California and other states in the southwest. If current population trends hold, Michigan is on track to lose another representative after the 2010 Census.

Michigan has much at stake if illegal immigrants flooding southwestern states continue to be counted for the purpose of congressional representation. As populations in the Southwest increase, Michigan stands to lose further representation. That loss could translate into less federal money returned to Michigan because the

state's contingent fighting on behalf of the state will be diminished.

Further loss of Michigan clout in Washington, D.C., could erode protection of the Great Lakes as more representatives for an arid Southwest look for sources of water to be diverted for agriculture there.

This is not an anti-immigrant effort. Immigrants who come to the U.S. legally and become citizens should be counted and participate in the process of democracy. But we cannot allow illegal immigrants to unfairly weight the process, diminishing the representation of other states with fewer illegal immigrants.

The resolution would require a two-thirds vote in both the federal House and Senate. It would then have to be ratified by at least 38 states. The process of amending the Constitution is a difficult one — and it should be. But there is too much at stake not to attempt this change.

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**Rep. Miller meets with Boilermakers from her district in Michigan.**



**Congresswoman Miller meets with students from Port Huron Northern High School.**



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## Washington Connection Weekly



### This Month's Radio Addresses:

- **New Michigan Water Projects**
- **Rep. Miller's legislation to keep Michigan's influence in Congress**
- **Veterans Health Care**
- **Climate Change Panel Appointment**



## Rep. Miller Op-Ed on Climate Change Policy and Michigan (Continued...)

*(Continued from page 1)*

lars and put our domestic automakers at a competitive disadvantage to foreign producers.

For the past 30 years, critics of the auto industry have put forward CAFE -- corporate average fuel economy requirements -- as a simple solution to limit America's demand for foreign oil. It has failed miserably. Even though the fuel efficiency of American cars has doubled and that of light trucks has increased by 60%, we are more dependent than ever on foreign energy. Our oil imports have increased 100% since CAFE was enacted.

I believe we in Detroit have a better idea, which is exciting new technology. At the North American International Auto Show, General Motors unveiled the Chevy Volt, a plug-in hybrid. Ford has shown the Edge plug-in hybrid. GM,

Chrysler and BMW have partnered to build a next generation gas-electric hybrid that will be more efficient than current hybrids.

Each automaker is advancing with dispatch on producing flex-fuel vehicles that run on E85 ethanol and other renewable fuels such as bio-diesel. We have seen advances with hydrogen-fuel-cell technology and other forms of clean energy that, when combined, could practically eliminate carbon emissions from autos.

Our Detroit automakers are global leaders in the production of flex-fuel vehicles, but the fuel is not widely available. Yet no one has suggested the oil companies, who have experienced record profits in recent years, be mandated to do that. CAFE has been a one-sided approach, with the entire burden placed on the automakers while the oil companies, whose fuel actually produces the carbon,

have not been mandated to produce lower carbon fuel. I would suggest that any mandates be spread across the economy, and I would ask for investment and sacrifice from all sides.

I intend to ask committee members to visit Detroit to see the incredible research that is revolutionizing the industry. They need to understand the ongoing challenges the industry faces, and to hear from industry leaders, researchers and workers. If the committee truly listens, the government could become a partner in moving forward technology that will help us to dramatically reduce carbon emissions, profoundly change the industry, and create countless new jobs.

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